

Northwards Housing wins employability support award

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NFA member Northwards Housing, which manages 13,000 Manchester City Council homes, has won recognition for the employability support it offers its residents.

A video tracking the journey of one resident following the sudden death of her husband, showing how she was able to draw on the backing of her landlord and their skills and training partner Yes Manchester, has been named joint winner of the first Give Us a Chance social media competition.

Northwards tenant Sharita Mandongwe was ultimately able to set up a charity, the Dimobi Disability Children Trust, that helps other parents in north Manchester raising children with special needs in difficult circumstances.

The awards are part of the wider Communities that Work campaign, led by GUAC and supported by the NFA. It aims to celebrate the work social housing landlords do to help their tenants access the labour market and find rewarding long-term jobs.

‘This particular story is very close to our hearts,’ said Yes Manchester Chief Executive Diane Roberts. ‘It’s been an honour be able to give Sharita, the resident featured in our video, our support through such a life-changing tragedy so that she now finds herself changing local lives for the better.’

‘We’re really thrilled to have been named as one of the winners. Yes Manchester was created after Northwards Housing and Manchester City Council saw the difference that this kind of organisation could make. Since then, we’ve had the privilege of helping so many people to find work, get training and launch their own businesses in the last six years.’

The other two award winners were Bolton at Home and Futures Housing Group.

Lynsey Sweeney, Managing Director at Give us a Chance, said: “I am delighted to announce the winners. These stories are perfect examples of how much the social housing sector is involved in employment-related support.”

See the full Northwards video here: [Northwards and Yes Manchester](#)

Note to editors: The National Federation of ALMOs Ltd (NFA) represents England’s 31 arms-length management organisations (ALMOs). ALMOs are not-for-profit council-owned housing companies that **manage nearly 420,000 council homes across 34 Local Authorities**.

First established in 2002 as part of the Government’s Decent Homes Programme to improve council housing, ALMO companies now work with their parent councils to deliver diverse housing services. These range from new-build development to support for residents’ employability, financial resilience and health and well-being.

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